THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Bruno RICHARD, et al.

Title:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INDEXING FILES

Appl. No.:

10/012,466

Filing Date: 12/12/2001

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JUL 2 6 2004

Examiner:

H. Thai

Technology Center 2100

Art Unit:

2171

AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated January 20, 2004, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

Applicants request a three month extension of time to make this response timely filed. A Petition for a three month extension of time is being filed concurrently herewith.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: